

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A system for detection of a watermark in digital content, comprising:
  - 2            a recording device having a first watermark detection component of a first
  - 3            sensitivity for detecting the watermark in digital content; and
  - 4            a playback device having a second watermark detection component of a
  - 5            second sensitivity for detecting the watermark in a digital content recording made
  - 6            by the recording device;
- 7            wherein the first sensitivity is more sensitive than the second sensitivity.
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- 1        2. The system of claim 1, wherein the digital content is unencrypted.
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- 1        3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first sensitivity causes the first
- 2            watermark detection component to check multiple channels of the digital content
- 3            for the watermark when the digital content comprises multi-channel audio data.
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- 1        4. The system of claim 1, wherein first sensitivity causes the first
- 2            watermark detection component to check the digital content for the watermark
- 3            more often than the second watermark detection component.
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- 1        5. The system of claim 1, wherein the first sensitivity for the first
- 2            watermark detection component causes the recording device to check the digital
- 3            content for the watermark with a computational precision less than a
- 4            computational precision of the second watermark detection component.
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- 1        6. A recording device for recording digital content for playback by a
- 2            playback device comprising:

3           a watermark detection component for detecting a watermark in the digital  
4 content, the watermark detection component being more sensitive for detecting  
5 the watermark than a watermark detection component in the playback device.

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1           7. The recording device of claim 6, wherein the watermark detection  
2 component of the recording device checks multiple channels of the digital  
3 content for the watermark when the digital content comprises multi-channel  
4 audio data.

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1           8. The recording device of claim 6, wherein the watermark detection  
2 component of the recording device checks the digital content for the watermark  
3 more often than the watermark detection component in the playback device.

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1           9. The recording device of claim 6, wherein the watermark detection  
2 component of the recording device checks the digital content for the watermark  
3 with a computational precision less than a computational precision of the  
4 watermark detection component of the playback device.

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1           10. A playback device for processing digital content recorded by a  
2 recording device comprising:

3           a watermark detection component for detecting a watermark in the digital  
4 content, the watermark detection component being less sensitive for detecting  
5 the watermark than a watermark detection component in the recording device.

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1           11. The playback device of claim 10, wherein the watermark detection  
2 component of the playback device checks the digital content for the watermark  
3 less often than the watermark detection component in the recording device.

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1           12. The playback device of claim 10, wherein the watermark detection  
2 component of the playback device checks the digital content for the watermark

3 with a computational precision more than a computational precision of the  
4 watermark detection component of the recording device.

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1 13. A method for processing unencrypted digital content in a recording  
2 device for subsequent playback by a playback device comprising:

3 attempting to detect a watermark in the unencrypted digital content by a  
4 watermark detection component of the recording device, the detection being  
5 more sensitive for detecting the watermark than a detection operation of a  
6 watermark detection component of the playback device;

7 making an unencrypted recording of the unencrypted digital content when  
8 the watermark is not detected in the unencrypted digital content; and

9 making an encrypted recording of the unencrypted digital content when  
10 the watermark is detected in the unencrypted digital content.

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1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein attempting to detect the watermark  
2 comprises checking multiple channels of the unencrypted digital content for the  
3 watermark when the unencrypted digital content comprises multi-channel audio  
4 data.

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1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein attempting to detect the watermark  
2 comprises checking the unencrypted digital content for the watermark more often  
3 than the watermark detection component in the playback device.

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1 16. The method of claim 13, wherein attempting to detect the watermark  
2 comprises checking the unencrypted digital content for the watermark with a  
3 computational precision less than a computational precision of the watermark  
4 detection component of the playback device.

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1 17. A method of processing, in a playback device, a digital content  
2 recording made by a recording device comprising:

3           recognizing whether the digital content recording is encrypted or  
4    unencrypted;

5           attempting, by a watermark detection component of the playback device,  
6    to detect a watermark in the digital content recording when the digital content  
7    recording is unencrypted, the detection being less sensitive for detecting the  
8    watermark than a detection operation of a watermark detection component of the  
9    recording device;

10          playing the digital content recording when the watermark is not detected;  
11    and

12          not playing the digital content recording when the watermark is detected.

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1           18. The method of claim 17, wherein attempting to detect the watermark  
2    comprises checking the digital content recording for the watermark less often  
3    than the watermark detection component in the recording device.

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1           19. The method of claim 17, wherein attempting to detect the watermark  
2    comprises checking the digital content recording for the watermark with a  
3    computational precision more than a computational precision of the watermark  
4    detection component of the recording device.

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1           20. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine  
2    readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a  
3    processor, the instructions provide for processing unencrypted digital content in  
4    a recording device for subsequent playback by a playback device by

5           attempting to detect a watermark in the unencrypted digital content by a  
6    watermark detection component of the recording device, the detection being  
7    more sensitive for detecting the watermark than a detection operation of a  
8    watermark detection component of the playback device;

9           making an unencrypted recording of the unencrypted digital content when  
10   the watermark is not detected in the unencrypted digital content; and

making an encrypted recording of the unencrypted digital content when  
the watermark is detected in the unencrypted digital content.

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1            21. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for attempting to detect  
2 the watermark comprise instructions for checking multiple channels of the  
3 unencrypted digital content for the watermark when the unencrypted digital  
4 content comprises multi-channel audio data.

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1        22. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for attempting to detect  
2 the watermark comprise instructions for checking the unencrypted digital content  
3 for the watermark more often than the watermark detection component in the  
4 playback device.

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1        23. The article of claim 20, wherein instructions for attempting to detect  
2 the watermark comprise instructions for checking the unencrypted digital content  
3 for the watermark with a computational precision less than a computational  
4 precision of the watermark detection component of the playback device

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1           24. An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine  
2 readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a  
3 processor, the instructions provide for processing, in a playback device, a digital  
4 content recording made by a recording device by

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6 unencrypted;

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8 to detect a watermark in the digital content recording when the digital content  
9 recording is unencrypted, the detection being less sensitive for detecting the  
10 watermark than a detection operation of a watermark detection component of the  
11 recording device;

2 playing the digital content recording when the watermark is not detected;

13 and

14 not playing the digital content recording when the watermark is detected.

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1 25. The article of claim 24, wherein instructions for attempting to detect  
2 the watermark comprise instructions for checking the digital content recording for  
3 the watermark less often than the watermark detection component in the  
4 recording device.

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1 26. The article of claim 24, wherein instructions for attempting to detect  
2 the watermark comprise instructions for checking the digital content recording for  
3 the watermark with a computational precision more than a computational  
4 precision of the watermark detection component of the recording device.

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